The State Government have also been asked to strengthen Special Branches to enable collection of actionable intelligence to preempt terrorist activities.

Revival of POTA

934. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions to bring back the Prevention of Terrorism Act. (POTA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are considering to revive POTA in view of the increasing terrorist activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) There have been demands to bring back POTA. The Government is of the view that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, as amended in September, 2004 alongside the repeal of POTA, does have such provisions as are considered necessary to deal with various facets of terrorism.

Assistance to Orissa for combating Maoist menace

935. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has requested the Centre to provide more help to combat the Maoist meance in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Orissa Government has asked the Centre to include three more districts of the State in the list of Maoists affected districts and asked for providing four additional companies to control this menace in the State; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help the State in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government of Orissa

has requested for deployment of additional companies of CRPF, inclusion of Sambalpur, Jaipur and Deogarh districts under the SRE Scheme, location of helicopter at Nagpur and construction of Ranchi-Vijayawada National Highway to combat naxal menace more effectively.

(d) Additional Coys of CRPF have been deployed in the State. The Government has been pursuing a multi-pronged approach to address the problem on political, security and development fronts in a coordinated manner. The Central Government has taken specific measures to coordinate and supplement the efforts and resources of the naxal affected States including Orissa on both security and development fronts to meet the challenge posed by the naxal problem.

Modernisation of State fire services

†936. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated for modernisation of State Fire Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the modernization scheme is targeted to be completed and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs has drawn up a scheme for the 'Strengthening of Fire and Emergency Services' in the States. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for:—

(i) Meeting the deficiencies of fire stations/units at the State Capital, Metropolitan Cities and District/Sub Divisional Headquarters as per minimum requirements;

(ii) Strengthening of State-level Fire Training Institutes, where existing, and setting up of such institutes in other States;

(iii) Procurement of upgraded versions of Fire Tenders, Rescue Vehicles and other fire related equipments and training aids; and

(iv) Provision of additional manpower.

(c) The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.